Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the third paragraph of page one, starting with line fourteen as follows:

-- Conventionally, organic solvents in electrolytes use one or a mixture of cyclic esters such as ethylene carbonate, or propylene carbonate, linear esters such as dimethyl carbonate or propionate ester, or cyclic ethers such as tetrahydrofurane. However, the low boiling point of the linear esters and cyclic ethers cause problems associated with thermal safety. There have been recent attempts to improve the thermal stability for the use of a silicon oil solvent in electrolytes. One such silicon oil solvent is disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open Nos. Hei 8-78053, Hei 11-213042 and ~~2000-581123~~ 2000-58123. Such silicon oils, however, have insufficient ionic conductivity to use in electrolytes for rechargeable lithium batteries.--.